

# Multi-Genre Writing: Exposition

## Expository Writing

Exposition is a type of oral or written discourse that is used to explain, describe, give information or inform.

## Expository Writing

Discuss with your table all the types of expository writing you have done in school from kindergarten until now. Also discuss all the different types of expository writing that exist.

# Expository Writing

## Different Types

Examples of Exposition

TV Reports

Textbooks

Editorials

News Stories

Academic Papers

Argumentative Writing

Persuasive Essays

Obituaries

Book Reports

Articles

Narrative

Dictionary

in class essay  
prescriptions

Movie Credits  
table of contents

Playbook

billboard

Newspaper

textbook

advertisement

recipes

Commercials

Schedules  
Backside of book  
Summary  
Drivers license  
Experiment write up  
Calendar

Biography  
receipts  
Posters  
PowerPoint  
Notes  
Phone Book

statistics



## Expository Example

As I read to you an example of expository writing, I want you to suck as much information as possible for the piece. This is generally what you do in school.

## Biography

William "Count" Basie (August 21, 1904 – April 26, 1984) was an American jazz pianist, organist, bandleader, and composer. His mother first taught him piano and he started performing in his teens. Dropping out of school, he learned to operate lights for vaudeville and improvised to accompany silent films at a local theater in his town of Red Bank, New Jersey. By 16, he increasingly played jazz piano at parties, resorts and other venues. In 1924, he went to Harlem, where his performing career expanded; he toured with groups to the major jazz cities of Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City. In 1929 he joined Bennie Moten's band in Kansas City, and played with them for years, until Moten's death in 1935.

That year Basie formed his own jazz orchestra, and in 1936 took them to Chicago for a long engagement and their first recording. He led the group for almost 50 years, creating innovations like the use of two "split" tenor saxophones, emphasizing the rhythm section, riffing with a big band, using arrangers to broaden their sound, and others. Many notable musicians came to prominence under his direction, including the tenor saxophonists Lester Young and Herschel Evans, the guitarist Freddie Green, trumpeters Buck Clayton and Harry "Sweets" Edison and singers Jimmy Rushing and Joe Williams. Basie's theme songs were "One O'Clock Jump," developed in 1935 in the early days of his band, and "April In Paris".

# Journal

Write a summary of what you have learned about Count Basie.

I don't know about you, but I believe there is more to understanding Count Basie or any other person than knowing the year he/she was born, the city where he/she got there start, and other facts. There are other ways to understand and know...and that what Multi-genre writing is all about.

Let's read a different piece about Count Basie, and as I read in your journal jot down the emotions and feelings that come to you.

## Basic Basie

Hunched. humped backed. gigantic  
the pianist presides above the  
rumpus. his fingers clutch the

chords. dissonance and dischord vie  
and vamp across the key  
board

his big feet beat the beat until the whole joint  
rocks. it is not romantic  
but a subtle fingering exudes a sweet exotic

fragrance now and then. you'll  
recognize the fragrance if you listen  
well. this flower blooms and blossoms. till

brash boogie woogie hordes come bourgeoning up from hell  
bling  
and gigantic

## Discussion

## Expository Thinking vs. Narrative Knowing

The poem and the bio are doing different work, and the way the two writers saw and communicated are different as well. The bio is concerned with reportage, facts, analysis, chronology, and logic. This kind of thinking is all around us, and it is indispensable....But it isn't the only way to think and communicate



## Narrative Knowing

Instead of explaining or analyzing as expository thinking does, narrative knowing renders experience or phenomenon. Narrative knowing shows. This is what your multi-genre project is all about.

After junior high, school is devoted to teaching students to think using exposition. Many teachers do not consider writing poetry or fiction cognitively rigorous. It is ironic that teachers read plenty of imaginative literature-even revere it as some of the best word work people have ever produced-but that they funnel students' writing in its opposite direction.

## Examples

Will

Grace

Hannah



Beloved mother, wife, daughter and inspiring coworker, Lisa Blakemore, passed away on Sunday, September 19th. Lisa was born on June 9th, 1960 in Las Vegas, Nevada among seven brothers and sisters. She lived her entire life at home in Utah but traveled the world yearly. After moving out of her house when she was 17, she graduated from Bingham High in 1978. Lisa worked as a mailman before deciding that starting a family and having more flexible hours was more important. From this decision she developed Blakemore Real Estate, which is now taken hold by her daughter, Catherine Blakemore. Her sons, Chas and Daniel work and live in Boston, Massachusetts. Lisa is the last of all her siblings to pass away and now joins them in heaven.

Lisa was a joyous spirit even into her last days. There is one phrase that you could always hear Lisa saying, "I'm so excited!" Her excitement kept her strong and willing until her last breath. Her legacy is lived on by her daughter and sons. The viewing will be held from 10:00 to noon on Tuesday, September 21st, 2054 at McGane Mortuary. By her request, a large party will be held at Grand America for family, friends and coworkers. Lisa's spirit will always live on.

# Homework

-Create an expository piece for your multi-genre topic

